

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND
)	
Kent H. Jensen)	
)	
Certificate # 164671)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 9, 2003. On August 22, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate (certificate) to Mr. Kent H. Jensen by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Mr. Jensen received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and proposed to resolve this matter by agreement of the parties. Through his attorney, Coming B. Gibbs, Jr., Esquire, Mr. Jensen agreed to accept the Department's proposal to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) he agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Mr. Jensen has over eleven years of teaching experience. He was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) for the 2002-2003 school year as a teacher at Cairo Middle School. On April 28, 2003, several teachers at Cairo Middle School were asked to enter certain pre-test data on the upcoming Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) testing materials. The teachers were told not to look at the testing booklets but just to "bubble in" the code on the test booklets and answer sheets. After the coding session Mr. Jensen approached four other teachers individually and reported that he had "peeked" at the social studies portion of the test and he felt confident that his students would do well on the PACT test.

Mr. Jensen admitted in a statement to the District on May 1, 2003, that he was curious and opened the test but only saw information pertaining to "forms of government." Mr. Jensen also stated that he did not share this information with any students. On June 5, 2003, Mr. Jensen wrote a statement for the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). In this statement he admitted that he scanned the questions, that he saw the word "barter", and that he did tell another teacher that there were questions about forms of government and an item concerning barter. He also admitted that he told some teachers that his students would do well on the test.

Accepted:

Initial Here

Date:

Kent H.
Jensen
#164671

Mr. Jensen remains employed with the District at Cairo Middle School. Solicitor Ralph Hoisington declined criminal prosecution and referred the matter for administrative handling

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Mr. Jensen's certificate; however, cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Mr. Jensen's conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 9, 2003

I, Kent H. Jensen, SC Teaching Certificate # 164671, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, September 9, 2003.

9/6/03
Date

/S/ Kent H. Jensen
Signature